

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 /061 W  
-----026045 211233Z /44

R 210955Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2979  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSULATE MUNICH  
AMEMBSSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CZ  
SUBJECT: CANONIZATION CEREMONY FOR FIRST CZECH-AMERICAN SAINT

1. SUMMARY: CANNONIZATION OF BISHOP NEUMANN IN ROME JULY  
19 WAS MARKED IN NEUMANN'S SOUTH BOHEMIAN BIRTHPLACE BY HIGH  
MASS IN CHURCH FILLED TO OVERFLOWING. LOCAL CZECHOSLOVAK  
AUTHORITIES TOOK MEASURES BEFOREHAND TO DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE BUT  
DID NOT APPARENTLY INTERFERE DIRECTLY IN ACTUAL FESTIVITIES.  
AMBASSADOR BYRNE, FAMILY AND EMBOFF ATTENDED. END SUMMARY.

2. MEDIUM-SIZED ST. JAKUB'S CHURCH IN PRACHATICE, WHERE BISHOP  
NEUMANN WAS BAPTIZED IN 1911 WAS FILLED ON JUNE 19 TO  
CAPACITY, STANDING ROOM ONLY, WITH OVERFLOW OUT ONTO STREET  
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FOR HIGH MASS MARKING CZNONIZATION OF BISHOP NEUMANN OF  
PHILADELPHIA. HIGHEST CHRUCHMAN AVAILABLE, A CANON FROM  
KLATOVY, CELEBRATED EUCHARIST AND IN SERMON EXPLAINED SIGNIFICANCE  
OF SAINTHOOD AT LENGTH, REVIEWED NEUMANN'S LIFE IN U.S.  
AND NOTABLY URGED CATHOLICS TO BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN IN  
CHRISTIAN FASHION.

3. WE WERE TOLD BY INHABITANTS OF PRACHATICE THAT FOR THREE WEEKS PRECEDING CANONIZATION MASS LOCAL OFFICIALS AND PARTY WORKERS TRIED TO DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE THROUGH LECTURES AT WORK PLACES CHARACTERIZING MASS AS AN "AMERICAN PROVOCATION." A COUNTER-EVENT WAS ORGANIZED TO DRAW EXPECTED CROWDS AWAY, AND ON SUNDAY MORNING POLICE WERE EXAMINING DOCUMENTS OF MOTORISTS APPROACHING PRACHATICE, AND REPORTEDLY TAKING DOWN LICENSE NUMBERS. WHAT APPEARED TO BE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE BUSY PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE LEAVING CHURCH.

4. TO SHOW RECOGNITION OF THIS UNIQUE EVENT IN LONG HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAK-AMERICA TIES, ACCOMPANIED BY MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER AND EMBOFF, I WENT TO PRACHATICE JUNE 19 IN THE OFFICIAL CAR. WE ATTENDED THE SPECIAL MASS AND SPOKE AFTERWARD WITH CELEBRANT, WHO SHOWED SOME UNEASINESS IN CONTRAST TO WARM SMILES OF SACRISTANS AND USHERS, BUT WAS QUITE POLITE. WE ALSO VISITED NEUMANN BIRTHPLACE NEARBY. AS A COURTESY, WE HAD NOTIFIED DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL INFORMALLY IN ADVANCE OF INTENTION TO ATTEND. REACTION WAS MATTER-OF-FACT AND NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO INTERFERE WITH OR TO FACILITATE MY ATTENDANCE. DECON FOLLOWING DEC 31, 1980. BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CANONIZATION CEREMONY FOR FIRST CZECH-AMERICAN SAINT  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, CZ, US, (NEUMANN, BISHOP)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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